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To Whom it May Concern,

It is crucial and beneficial that the FCC oppose efforts by the NAB to prevent XM Radio and other satellite radio broadcasters from providing local weather and traffic reports to listeners. These are basic information services that would enable satellite stations to compete with land-based stations. Radio has already been dealt a lethal blow to its health by regulatory changes that have led to the consolidation of the industry and a stultifying homogeneity. Satellite offers one of the few remedies and a new chance to inject competition into what was, until now, a lifeless media whose only purpose was providing background for advertisements. Satellite radio has brought culture, relevance, and depth back to radio; but in order for it to thrive, it must be allowed to compete on an even playing field with the more established land-based broadcasters. Providing local information such as weather and traffic is crucial to creating that even playing field. If the FCC has the best interests of citizens at heart, it must oppose NAB's petition 04-160, thereby encouraging competition in this market and a broadening of the content available to citizens.

Respectfully,
Michael Strassman